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#### PLANNING WORK OF CZECHOSLOVAK COUNCILS

The Czechoslovak local councils were established on 1 January 1949 with the task of performing organizational and cultural functions. The law which created local councils provides that economic activities and planning will constitute the councils' main tasks.

The law provides further that the local councils will:

Make decisions at open meetings regarding those planned tasks for which they are responsible within the over-all plan.

Make decisions regarding their budget and deliberate over accounts rendered.

Supervise the execution of tasks and check the farms on the basis of indexes.

Supervise the execution of the economic plan as a whole in their own territories.

Between sessions of the local councils, the executive committees carry on. These committees discuss the preparation of plans, organization, and supervision. Questions discussed by the executive committees are prepared by the planning departments of the councils, on the basis of data supplied by the various professional departments. More important affairs, such as the approval of quarterly plans, the organization of planning, general plan supervision, and monthly and quarterly reports on plan fulfillment, are first discussed with the Okres Planning Commission.

Okres and kraj councils are organized into the following 11 departments:

1. General internal affairs department (chairmanship, secretariat, administrative department)
2. Planning department

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3. Public safety department (police court)
4. Education and physical culture department
5. Labor and social department
6. Health department
7. Finance department
8. Economics department
9. Agriculture department
10. Domestic trade and distribution department
11. Technical department

Each department is headed by a referent who is a member of the executive committee. The deputy referent actually manages the department. Deputy chairmen of the council are nominated from the ranks of the referents. The okres council has four deputy chairmen. The first deputy is always the head of the planning department. The other three are chosen from among the referents of the other departments on the basis of political or professional qualifications.

The planning work of the various departments is organized, directed, and controlled by the planning department. It is the duty of this department to prepare over-all plans for the okres and kraj, and to organize the execution and control of the plans.

The councils provide the prerequisites for successful planning. The planning departments have impressive staffs. Hradec Kralove Okres has a planning staff of 21 persons, not counting statisticians. Bratislava Okres has a staff of 19. In spite of the relatively large staffs of the planning departments, they do not handle details, and the operative tasks of planning, execution, and control. These problems are always solved by the various professional departments concerned. This is done because planning and professional work are interrelated. The plans of the various professional departments are passed upon by the planning departments. This is done to provide the higher organs with correlated and interrelated information. No report is made to any ministry in planning matters without consulting the planning department. Plan fulfillment is not merely checked, but is carefully analyzed on the basis of statistical information. The planning department prepares monthly and quarterly reports on plan fulfillment. The executive committee evaluates these reports.

The State Planning Office, in cooperation with the councils, works out sections of the economic plan for every okres. These are regional plans which apply to national and local enterprises.

At present, the main task of the councils is the planning of the local economy. They keep in contact, however, with enterprises of national scope which are located in their territory. The relationship depends on the classification of the enterprise in question.

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Enterprises and institutions have been put into the following three categories:

a. Centrally planned units. This category includes larger industrial enterprises, state farms, forests larger in area than 1,000 cadastral yokes, wholesale enterprises, transportation enterprises of national scope, universities, etc. Planning for these units is done directly by the ministries. They send the plans of the enterprises to the lower level councils only to request an opinion.

b. Units on the okres level. This category includes national enterprises not mentioned in the first category. Planning for them is done by the ministries, but the okres councils participate to a larger extent. These councils receive final drafts of the plans of the enterprises, but they may check plan fulfillment during the year.

c. Units on the local level. This category contains all communal enterprises, small industrial enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, cultural and health institutions, and the private sector of the economy. Plans for these small enterprises are prepared by the okres and kraj councils directly.

For 1952, planning starts in August. By this time, the councils receive copies of the draft plan prepared by the ministries. The councils then observe and help the planning work of the large enterprises. The local press and other propaganda media then alert workers to participate in the planning.

Simultaneously, the councils receive, in resume form, the plan for the units on the local level. The professional departments then break down the plan by enterprises or krajs. They consider planning for the local enterprises from the viewpoint of the most benefit to the local population and the fulfillment of the plans of the large enterprises.

The organs of the council pass upon the plans of the local enterprises and give opinions on the plans of national enterprises. The large enterprises then forward the plans, with the opinions of the councils, to the appropriate ministries. In the meantime, the councils copy from the proposals of the various enterprises all data which are necessary for the preparation of balance sheets. From this data, the professional departments and planning departments prepare the okres balance sheets, including the following: power, construction materials, fodder, agricultural production, okres water supply, and manpower.

The planning departments prepare the preliminary okres general plans on the basis of the partial plans and the regional balance sheets. Together with the balance sheets, these plans are submitted to the State Planning Office. It is the task of the general plan to analyze all the economic forces within an okres from the viewpoint of the development of the okres and to analyze their long-run effects.

The councils are responsible for the economic life of their territories and for creating the prerequisites for plan fulfillment.

The most important tasks of the councils consist of the socialist reorganization of agriculture, development of local industry, proper utilization of manpower, scrap collection, and exploitation of hidden reserves. In short, the councils are to strengthen the economy by all means at their disposal.

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